

Question from March 20, 2013 NCSP Webinar

Eligibility

What are the chances of a current high school senior (who has been accepted into a 4 year school of nursing) being awarded a scholarship?

The NCSP awards are based on the criteria defined in the 2013 Application and Program Guidance. High school graduates attending a qualified school of nursing are fully eligible and encouraged to apply.

a) I am a high school student just entering college this fall for the first time. I will be in a 4 year nursing program for my BSN, but am not accepted into the nursing program until junior year. Can I still be considered for this scholarship?

b) I am going to start a RN program in August 2013. I have some pre-requisite classes that I have to take currently. Would this qualify as an enrollment/acceptance or would I have to be accepted in the actual RN program in order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship?

c) I am finishing my undergrad this May. My nursing program is an accelerated program in CT that will not begin until January 2014. Am I eligible for this scholarship?

d) Do you have to be accepted in a Nursing program for advanced practice (MSN or DNP) before you can apply for this calendar year?

You must be enrolled and accepted in an accredited nursing program by the application deadline of May 2, 2013. In addition the program must begin on or before September 30, 2013. For more information on eligible programs, please refer to pages 4 and 5 of the 2013 NSCP Application and Program Guidance.

Will preference be given to racially/ethnically diverse applicants?

Race and ethnicity are not factors used to determine funding preferences.

Can a person still be eligible for the loan if the person had a defaulted student loan over 5 years ago?

Yes, you may apply for the scholarship; however this will be a factor in determining your final eligibility. Please see page 7 of the 2013 Application and Program Guidance for more specific eligibility information.

Can I still apply for the program if I'm accepted into a private 4-year nursing degree program whose tuition is due for the total 4 years at the beginning of the year you get accepted?

You are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Our current policy requires the nursing school to submit invoices for payment of tuition and fees each term. Any change from the current policy will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

a) I am applying for a BSN-DNP program that will start in the fall of 2013. Will this program qualify for the scholarship?

b) If I enter a direct-entry MSN program (after a non-nursing bachelor's) that confers a BSN at the end of the first pre-specialty year--without a gap before the master's coursework begins--is that eligible, even though it is a dual degree program?

c) I also was wondering if this is the correct program for me to be applying for I am a registered nurse I am currently in a RN- DNP program (Family). I will graduate after the 3rd year with a master?

d) I am completing an accelerated MSN and have been accepted to a DNP-FNP program that is online but not a self-study because I have received a plan of study set by the school. Am I eligible to submit an application?

e) I also was wondering if this is the correct program for me to be applying for I am a registered nurse I am currently in a RN- DNP program (Family). I will graduate after the 3rd year with a master?

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An eligible bridge program must be one of three types: RN to BSN, RN to NP, or non-bachelors nursing to NP. Graduate nursing programs other than full-time masters nurse practitioner, fall into our second and third funding preferences. Dual degree programs are not eligible.

Is acceptance to a program in Allied Health (if the student plans to study nursing) eligible?

To be eligible for a scholarship you would need to be enrolled and accepted as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited nursing degree program (i.e. Associate Degree of School of Nursing, Collegiate School of Nursing, Diploma School of Nursing and RN-BSN, RN-NP, non-nursing bachelor's to NP Bridge Program) at the time of your scholarship application.

I plan to apply to an accelerated BSN program, which would begin in either January 2014 or June 2014. Do I need to wait until the 2014 HRSA Scholarship cycle to apply for funding? If the funding coverage does not begin until July 1, is there anyway the cost of the January - June 30 time period can be funded by the HRSA program?

If your classes do not start on or before September 30, 2013 you would need to wait and apply for the 2014 NURSE Corps Scholarship application cycle.

Are students who are seeking a BSN "4 year nursing degree" at a local university considered part of Tier 1 First preference?

First funding preference is given to applicants who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited Diploma, undergraduate nursing program or graduate level Nurse Practitioner as a full-time student. To the extent that funds remain available, all other applicants will be considered in the order of decreasing financial need.

I was recently laid off, and during my years of working, I had a tax lien against my wages. I made arrangements, made good on those until the layoff. Am I disqualified? Also, I had a prior student loan from 94, but still owe 2000.00. This too is going unpaid during this layoff. Is this a disqualifier?

Eligibility will be determined by how this is reported on your credit report. If it is being reported as a default on your federal obligations then you would be considered ineligible.

I am in an accelerated BSN program that started in January 2013. I have federal loans specific to my program for which payments are not yet due, am I still eligible to apply for NURSE Corps, or would this be considered a federal debt?

Your federal loans are only considered federal debt if they are currently or have been in default. If you currently have student loans while attending school they would be considered to be deferred while you are in school.

If I enter a dual-specialty MSN program (family nurse practitioner and nurse-midwifery--dual-track, not two degrees), which funding tier would I fall into? Would I be obligated to complete my service as a FNP, or could I also serve as a CNM?

Based on the information given here, and assuming all eligibility requirements are met; you likely would be eligible as an FNP. And most likely will need to fulfill your service obligation in the FNP role, not the nurse-midwife.

I will be completing my Associate in Nursing Degree this June 2013. Do I qualify to apply now? I am currently in the process of applying to a bridge MSN or RN-BSN program but I will probably not be notified before the deadline.

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To be eligible for a scholarship you would need to be enrolled and accepted as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited nursing degree program (i.e. Associate Degree of School of Nursing, Collegiate School of Nursing, Diploma School of Nursing and RN-BSN, RN-NP, non-nursing bachelor's to NP Bridge Program) at the time of your scholarship application submission.

If I have a bankruptcy that does not include federal obligations, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you still eligible to apply for the NURSE Corps Scholarship if you have a bankruptcy on your credit report; however this will be a factor in determining your final eligibility. Please see page 7 of the 2013 Application and Program Guidance for more specific eligibility information.

I have filled out my FAFSA and received an EFC of 0, but haven't yet filed my taxes this year. Do I need to file my taxes and get my EFC updated before my SAR will be recognized?

The NURSE Corps Scholarship Program uses the EFC listed on the Official Student Aid Report to evaluate financial need. We do not determine factors that are used to generate an Official Student Aid Report. Please contact the Department of Education for more information at: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or via email at FederalStudentAidCustomerService@ed.gov.

When stating student must be "in good standing" is that academically, or does that also include tuition debt? I have a balance due for my current semester and I graduate in Dec. 2013.

Prior tuition will not be taken into account, as it is your personal obligation. Good standing refers to your academic status and program compliance should you be awarded. If awarded tuition support will begin July 1 2013.

Do you consider any other financial hardships when you consider acceptance into this program? My EFC is considerably higher than 5000, but that is related to my parents income and I will be paying for college on my own.

It is not for the NCSP team to recommend courses of action, but if you are paying for college on your own you may want to consider reapplying for FAFSA and clearly state your lack of family contribution.

Working as a License Practical Nurse, am I qualified for your scholarship program if I make more than \$5500 a year?

Your employment income is not considered in evaluating your funding preference. Applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need.

Is an RN-to-BSN considered a "Bridge Program"?

Yes, RN to BSN is one of the three types of bridge programs eligible for consideration of the NCSP scholarship award.

I am currently in an Entry Level Nursing BSN Program. The program began on January 2012. There is a total of 7 semesters and I am currently completing my 4th semester. Can I still apply for this scholarship so that it can cover my 5th through 7th semester which will end in May 2014? How can I enter the exact dates on the application?

Yes. Under the NURSE Corps SP, all school years run from July 1 through June 30. If awarded a scholarship you could be eligible for funding from July 1, 2013 through graduation.

Enter the dates that relate to the application beginning July 1 regardless to your actual prior year entry into the program.

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I am currently part time until I matriculate in August into the upper division full time program. Should my application indicate my current status or my anticipated status (full time for the next two years)?

Enter your anticipated full-time status. Under the NURSE Corps SP, all school years run from July 1 through June 30 and your program must start before September 30, 2013.

I am a family nurse practitioner and currently working on my master's as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, would I qualify for a scholarship? I am also in the air national guard but I am not receiving a scholarship but receiving a cash incentive over 3 years.

Yes, all Nurse Practitioner programs are eligible. Applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. Upon completion of your program you must begin your service obligation to NURSE Corps. If you have an existing service obligation upon graduation, you may still apply as long as there is no potential conflict in fulfilling the service commitment to the NURSE Corps SP first; or as long as the service obligation is completed by the date of date of application submission. Exceptions may apply, please refer to page 6 of the Application Program Guidance.

If I understand correctly any tuition owed prior to July 2013 is not eligible for scholarship help, but I will only have one semester left before graduation (DEC2013), am I still eligible for funding with the understanding I would still owe 2 years of service

Correct. Your previous tuition is not eligible for scholarship help, and if awarded you are obligated for 2 years of services.

I am going to apply to both a BSN Nurse Practitioner and a Masters NP program, do they both receive preference?

First Funding Preference will be given to qualified applicants who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited diploma, undergraduate nursing program or graduate level nurse practitioner program as full-time students. You must be accepted to a program before the application deadline.

I won't find out if I'm accepted to the program for fall until mid-June but your application cycle closes in early May. Does this automatically disqualify me from applying this cycle?

Under the NURSE Corps SP, you must be accepted and enrolled by the application deadline of May2, 2013. All school years run from July 1 through June 30 and you would need documentation from your school indicating your acceptance and program start date on or before September 30, 2013.

I intend to do a dual BSN/MSN degree that requires us to break and work for 1 year then return to complete the MSN section. However, my program requires that I sign up for the dual degree during the summer 2013 semester, for my Nurses Corp application should I state that it is a Dual Degree or a BSN?

Yes, this is considered a dual degree program and it's not an eligible program type. Please note: Students enrolled in Licensed Practical Nurse programs, self-paced study programs (on-line), dual degree and bridge programs that are not RN-to-BSN, RN-to-NP, or Bachelors (non-nursing)-to-NP programs are not eligible for a scholarship award.

I'm going to be graduating from my ADN RN program June 2014. However, I want to continue and earn my RN-BSN right after I graduate. Will it be possible for me to remain in the NURSE Corps Scholarship for those 2-3 years?

No. Nursing participants have up to 6 months from the date of graduation to (1) obtain a nursing license and (2) accept an offer of employment from an NURSE Corps SP approved facility. All participants

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enrolled in a nursing program must complete their service obligation as specified in their contract. For example, a participant who has requested support for 2013-2014 academic year, has submitted a signed NCSP contract and is enrolled full-time in an ADN RN program must complete 2 full-time service years of obligation before continuing their education in the RN-BSN program. To receive scholarship support for the RN-BSN education a new application would need to be completed.

I am applying to an Accelerated BA hybrid cohort program. The lectures are completed via online class and the labs and clinicals are completed on-site. Is this program eligible for the scholarship?

More details about the program would need to be provided before eligibility can be determined. Please note: Students enrolled in Licensed Practical Nurse programs, self-paced study programs (on-line), dual degree and bridge programs that are not RN-to-BSN, RN-to-NP, or Bachelors (non-nursing)-to-NP programs are not eligible for a scholarship award.

- a) Must the Masters (Nurse Practitioner) be in person? Can it be full time online? How about if it is an accredited program?
- b) I am enrolled in an online school and it is a self-paced nursing program, would I be eligible for this scholarship.
- c) I wanted to get more clarification regarding programs that have online lectures. Would this be considered ineligible even though there is a clinical aspect?
- d) Are online BSN to NP programs covered?
- e) Does this program covers students in an online RN to BSN program?
- f) I am completing an accelerated MSN and have been accepted to a DNP-FNP program that is online but not a self-study because I have received a plan of study set by the school. Am I eligible to submit an application?
- g) Just wondering if this program covers students in an online RN to BSN program?

Self- paced on-line programs are not eligible. Please refer to Page 5 of the 2013-2014 APG. Students enrolled in Licensed Practical Nurse programs, self-paced study programs (on-line), dual degree and bridge programs that are not RN-to-BSN, RN-to-NP, or Bachelors (non-nursing)-to-NP programs are not eligible for a scholarship award.

- a) When does the application cycle open next year? It looks like I won't be eligible this year since I won't learn of my acceptance status until November. In addition, the two programs to which I am applying start in January and August of 2014. How much of the tuition would be covered? Both programs are accelerated. One costs \$22,000.00 and the other costs \$48,000.00; how does that work?
 - b) I have talked to my faculty advisor and he thinks I will be accepted into the associates of nursing program fall 2014. Should I wait to apply for the NURSE Corps Scholarship in the spring of 2014?
- The scholarship cycle usually opens sometime in March of each year. To be eligible to apply for the current application cycle, you **MUST** begin classes no later than September 30, 2013. If awarded the scholarship, the full amount of tuition, eligible required fees, and other reasonable costs are paid in addition to a monthly stipend.

How do we apply for this?

Go to <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/scholarships/nursing/> to obtain detailed information about the scholarship program as well as information on how to apply.

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Do you have to be accepted to a nursing program by May 2nd?

In order to apply, you must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full or part-time student in an accredited nursing degree program AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE SCHOOL OF NURSING, A COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, A DIPLOMA SCHOOL OF NURSING at the time of application (or application close date). Also, you must begin the nursing degree program on or before September 30, 2013.

a) My question is: are college freshman eligible to participate in this program as most college freshman have not been admitted into "the Nursing School" until after their sophomore year;

b) I am currently a student at a community college completing my prerequisites. I have been accepted to a different university, starting later this year, for their nursing program. On the Good Standing Report, who would suffice to fill this out? I saw I need a nursing school official signature.

To be eligible for a scholarship, a NURSE Corps SP applicant must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full or part-time student in an accredited nursing degree program or school of nursing and the program must begin on or before September 30, 2013. The verification of acceptance/enrollment verification form should come from an official contact person for the school of nursing.

Funding Preferences

a) You said there are 3 top requirements that give a higher chance to receive the scholarship. What are those?

b) Does the scholarship program make an ADN and BSN preference over MSN?

c) Most of the MSN programs in my area are going to DNP programs now- is this an eligible / covered program?

d) How does the NURSE Corps SP determine which applicants will receive scholarships?

e) A lot of calls are referring to Nurse Practitioner degrees as first choice does BSN degrees rank as a second choice?

f) Does the funding preference includes all the EFCs from 0 to 5000 or the preference is given for those with the greatest need?

The NURSE Corps SP determines scholarship awardees utilizing funding preferences and selection factors.

Funding Preferences

There is a funding preference for applicants of greatest financial need. An applicant's financial need is determined based on the applicant's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is provided on the Official Student Aid Report (SAR) generated through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. Among qualified applicants with the greatest financial need (i.e. applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550):

(1) First Funding Preference will be given to qualified applicants who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited diploma, undergraduate nursing program or graduate level nurse practitioner program as full-time students.

(2) Second Funding Preference will be given to qualified applicants who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited graduate nursing program for Doctor of Nursing Practice programs,

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programs for certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, or clinical nurse specialists as full-time students.

(3) Third Funding Preference will be given to qualified applicants who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited diploma, undergraduate or graduate nursing program as part-time students. To the extent that funds remain available, all other applicants will be considered in the order of decreasing financial need. (PER APG)

Is the cost of the BSN program taken into consideration when deciding who will be awarded the scholarship? For example if two people applied and were equally qualified but applicant A's program cost \$56,000 applicant B's program cost \$32,000, will applicant B be more likely to get the scholarship?
Nursing Program cost is not a factor in the selection and awarding process.

a) I am beginning a Master's NP program this fall at Yale. I have already spent several years working in rural and underserved communities and have a strong academic background. If my EFC is slightly above \$5500, will the competitiveness of the rest of my application be a consideration at all or is it a strict cutoff that will edge me out of the funding preferences?

b) Do you consider any other financial hardships when you consider acceptance into this program? My EFC is considerably higher than 5000, but that is related to my parents income and I will be paying for college on my own.

c) Which funding preference is most imperative, program or EFC?

Applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. This factor is considered for the first three funding preferences.

I was wondering if I passed the entrance exam for PCCTI how do I get help paying for school? Students enrolled in Licensed Practical Nurse programs, self-paced study programs (on-line), dual degree and bridge programs that are not RN-to-BSN, RN-to-NP, or Bachelors (non-nursing)-to-NP programs are not eligible for a scholarship award. The NURSE Corps SP considers a nursing program to be accredited if it is accredited by a national or regional nurse education accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

My EFC is \$356, so does that take preference over my MSN?

Applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. This factor is considered for the first three funding preferences. In addition, preference is given to applicants who have been accepted into a master's level nurse practitioner program. Please review the Application Program Guidance for a review of the other selection factors considered.

Financial/EFC

Would a personal loan be considered an EFC?

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined based upon the detailed Income, Assets, Benefits and other required information that you provide when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This measure of your family's financial strength is calculated according to a formula established by law and does not appear to consider personal loans. For more information, contact the Department of Education for more information at: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or via email at FederalStudentAidCustomerService@ed.gov.

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How does one know their EFC?

The information you report on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is then provided to you on the Official Student Aid Report (SAR) which is generated through the FAFSA.

I am in a Nurse Practitioner Program. From my understanding on your website, I can waive the monthly stipend and still take out loans from the school for cost of living, is that correct?

Stipend payments are made regardless of if you receive student loans or not. We will only cover the remaining tuition if student loans are also being applied tuition. However, if your school states that you are using loans to cover cost of living expenses then you are eligible to receive full tuition payments while you are claiming student loans.

Does the monthly stipend end at graduation?

Scholars will receive stipend, ORC and tuition payments from July 1 through June 30, or through the month the participant completes the required classes for graduation, whichever comes first.

What is the maximum allowed annual income allowed for a married couple with two minor children.

Applicants with an Expected Family Contribution between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. Your EFC is determined based upon the detailed Income, Assets, Benefits and other required information that you provide when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This measure of your family's financial strength is calculated according to a formula established by law. Please complete the FAFSA in its entirety to obtain your EFC.

Does the National Health Service Corps address a higher EFC bracket?

Information regarding National Health Service Corps eligibility can be found at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/downloads/spapplicationguide.pdf> on the Application and Program Guidance.

Will the stipend be retroactive through May 5th, 2013 if my 1year accelerated nursing program begins on May 5th and continues (with no breaks, summer term ends 8/18) until May 2014?

The NURSE Corps SP award and contract term is from July 1 through June 30. Your stipend payment will not be retroactive to May 2013. If awarded, your stipend payments would be made for the period of July 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014. You would not receive a stipend payment for June 2014 since the required classes for graduation will be completed in May. On a case by case basis, NCSP may pay your tuition for any required classes underway on July 1, 2013.

Hello. I would like to clarify that since payments will not be made until November, if the NP program begins Sept 30, are all initial payments made out of pocket? Or will tuition be reimbursed for Sept-Nov period, including the monthly stipend? Thank you!

The first payment for new NURSE Corps SP awardees will be made no later than November 2013 and will include stipend payments retroactive to July 1st. Also included will be the annual payment for Other Reasonable Costs. If a new NCSP participant has taken out a student loan to cover the cost of tuition and fees for their summer and/or fall 2013 semester(s) while waiting for notice of an NCSP award, the student's academic institution should supply an itemized invoice to the NCSP showing the amount of tuition and fees paid for with that student loan. The NCSP will pay that amount to the academic institution to cover the tuition costs covered by the loan. After the fall 2013 semester, the NCSP will not pay tuition and fees costs covered by any student loans.

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What if I have bad credit, would I be considered?

A credit check and a check of the U.S. System for Award Management (a listing of individuals and organizations who are excluded from receiving federal funds) will be performed as part of the application approval process. A NURSE Corps SP applicant, who has a history of not honoring a prior legal obligation, as evidenced by one or more of the following factors, may not be selected for an award:

- (a) Default on any Federal payment obligations (e.g., student loans, Federal income tax liabilities, mortgages, etc.) or non-Federal payment obligations (e.g., court-ordered child support payments); OR
- (b) Write off of any Federal or non-Federal debt as uncollectible.

I am currently enrolled in a FNP program. Is the scholar ship based on income?

There is a funding preference for applicants of greatest financial need for the NURSE Corps SP award. An applicant's financial need is determined based on the applicant's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is provided on the Official Student Aid Report (SAR) generated through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need.

If a selectee had to take out loans to cover costs, the NURSE Corps sends payment to the school; does the school then reimburse the student for the amount they already received from the loan? What happens to that duplicate payment?

If a new NCSP participant has taken out a student loan to cover the cost of tuition and fees for their summer and/or fall 2013 semester(s), while waiting for notice of an NCSP award, the student's academic institution should supply an itemized invoice to the NCSP showing the amount of tuition and fees paid for with that student loan. The NCSP will pay that amount to the academic institution to cover the tuition costs covered by the loan. As this typically generates a credit on the student's account, the student should then request that the academic institution issue to them a refund. It is advised that the refund be used to pay those loans and future loans canceled. Please note that after the fall 2013 semester, the NCSP will not pay tuition and fees costs covered by any student loans.

In relation to the EFC, if my EFC is greater than \$5550 but I have a vast amount of student loans (\$220,000) will that be taken in consideration and not bump me down to third preference

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined based upon the detailed Income, Assets, Benefits and other required information that you provide when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This measure of your family's financial strength is calculated according to a formula established by law. We adhere strictly to the EFC provided on the Official Student Aid Report (SAR) and applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. However, you may want to consider applying to the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program which offers nursing education loan repayment in exchange for a minimum two year service commitment at a CSF located within a HPSA. NCLRP makes awards based on criteria including an applicant's salary to debt ratio, and the HPSA score of the CSF in which the applicant is employed. For more information, please visit their website at

<http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/index.html> For information about other HRSA loans and scholarships; please go to the HRSA website at www.hrsa.gov under the Loans and Scholarship tab.

How do I obtain an official student aid report? Could I copy and paste the student aid report?

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The Official Student Aid Report (SAR) is generated through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please complete the FAFSA in its entirety to obtain the SAR which will indicate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The FAFSA may be found at www.fafsa.gov

My NP program requires me to take a writing class this summer. It is only 3 hours. Once this class is completed I will have a full load of classes for fall. Will that summer class be paid for even though its only 3 hours?

Yes, the NCSP will cover the summer school class since it is required by the nursing program.

I go to a College of Nursing in Atlanta, GA in an accelerated BSN program. I started September 2012. I receive 2 Stafford loans that the government allows for (subsidized and unsubsidized). If I am accepted for the scholarship, do those 2 loans get canceled out? Would I have to repay them immediately or does it still apply that I don't have to until I graduate or does this scholarship pay those funds back? Does my FAFSA grant get terminated also?

Receipt of the NURSE Corps SP award does not require that you cancel your student loans. If a new NCSP participant has taken out a student loan to cover the cost of tuition and fees for their summer and/or fall 2013 semester(s), while waiting for notice of an NCSP award, the student's academic institution should supply an itemized invoice to the NCSP showing the amount of tuition and fees paid for with that student loan. The NCSP will pay that amount to the academic institution to cover the tuition costs covered by the loan. After the fall 2013 semester, the NCSP will not pay tuition and fee costs covered by any student loans. Thereafter, you should not pay for tuition and fees with student loans if you are receiving the NCSP award. If you do, the NCSP will only remit payment to your school if there is a balance remaining for tuition and eligible fees after all additional aid and student loans have been applied. Typically, the borrower of an unsubsidized loan will be responsible for paying interest on the loan during all in-school, grace, deferment, and forbearance periods. Please check the specific terms of your Stafford loans, however, to understand your repayment agreement. The NURSE Corps SP award will not pay for previous loans (prior to receiving the award). Again, the NCSP will only pay tuition and fee costs covered by any student loans for the summer and/or fall 2013 semester(s). Grants you are receiving are not automatically terminated. Upon notice of the NCSP award, however, the academic institution may return those payments to the source of funding and then submit an invoice to the NRCSP for payment.

a) Please specify more detail on taxes: are social security taxes due on everything? If so, does the program pay for any of the social security taxes, or is the applicant responsible for the total 12.4 percent Social Security tax?

b) Are income taxes and social security taxes due on "Other reasonable costs" that are paid by the program?

The entire NURSE Corps SP award is taxable. NCSP withholds Federal income taxes from the stipend payments and ORC based on information you provide on the W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate. Although payments of tuition and fees are made directly to the academic institution, you are responsible for taxes owed on these amounts. State and local income taxes will not be withheld. We advise NCSP participants to consult their local tax authority regarding applicable federal, state or local taxes for which they may be liable. It is your responsibility to arrange for the payment of any additional Federal, State, and local taxes that may be owed.

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School Dates/Accreditation

My program is a Direct Entry MSN: Family Nurse Practitioner Program, 2 years for the BSN and the MSN may be finished in 15 months. The BSN program should finish in May 2015 with the FNP starting in June 2015. How should I appropriately answer the start/end dates for the program, is an estimate allowed? Also, the online application does not seem to allow for the entry of summer months for the start date.

Based on the information provided, this sounds like a dual degree program, since you will receive two degrees. Dual degree programs are not eligible. However, if you were to apply for a scholarship award for just the MSN portion of your education, that may be eligible. You are required to start your service obligation up to 6 months from the date of graduation during which time you must pass your licensure and certification exams.

a) I am entering an Accelerated Nursing Program but my start date begins before July 1st. I am curious as to what I should say on the application is the start date of my program. It is actually May 13, 2013 but the application will not accept that answer.

b). For the application, what do we put for the funding year intended if we will be in school for the summer term as of July 2013. Is it still considered funding for year one even though it is part of the summer, and not the whole year?

The NCSP contract runs from July 1 through June 30 of any given school year. Start dates for the first application year MUST be before September 30, 2013. You should use July 1 as the start date for your program if your school starts before this date.

What if the dates do not match when I enter the start and end dates of the program?

If your dates do not match please check all entries carefully for sequential months and years. Be sure that your program start dates is before September 30, 2013. Please contact the Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393 for further assistance.

a) How do you assess the accreditation of a nursing program? For instance, the school that I am planning to attend has a new nursing program. It is accredited in Washington, DC. Would you be able to pay for this program?

b). I'm in an ADN program. The school is accredited by New York State and other organizations. However, the nursing program is not New York State accredited; can I still apply for the NSP?

c) The nursing program is only NYS Board of Education accredited but not accredited by the National League of Nursing. Can I still apply for NSP?

The NURSE Corps SP considers a nursing program to be accredited if it is accredited by a national or regional nurse education accrediting agency or state approval agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Please refer to pages 4 and 5 of the 2013 NCSP Application and Program Guidance.

Do I need to still check funding for year one or leave it as funding for year two alone?

You MUST select each year for which you would be requesting funding. By definition you are required to request funding for the 2013 – 2014 school year (Year 1) and select sequential years of funding you wish to have covered by our scholarship.

Service Obligation

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Does NCSP assist in employment placements after my NP licensure?

The NCSP provides information to assist you with looking for critical shortage facilities in health professional shortage areas. You are responsible for finding employment at an eligible site.

a) Where can I find a list of critical shortage facilities in GA?

Where can we access information directly about tier 1 critical shortage facilities in our specific area?

b) I would like to know if there is a simple way to search for sites across the country that meet the Tier 1 HPSA qualifications currently in place. I can search by state/county, but not by score, and I am trying to look at what real possibilities may exist for me as I think relocation would be a likely necessity. I can look for the Health Service Corps but not for the Nursing Scholarship. The HSC shows the # of open positions. Anything similar for NURSE Corps Scholarships?

Participants should consult the HPSA websites listed on page 21 of the 2013 Application and Program Guidance. When searching by state/county, select the advanced search function which will allow you to search by score. **The HPSA websites referenced, do not provide information about the number of open positions.** You will need the address for the faculty of interest to you.

Do we get paid after we finish nursing and start working at a qualified facility? Do we get paid for those two years that we work?

Pursuant to the terms of the program, you have up to six months after graduation to find a job in an eligible tier one critical shortage facility. The terms of your salary are determined by you and your employer. NCSP is not involved in any negotiations, nor do we stipulate the terms of pay. .

a) When you pay back your service requirement, do you have to apply to the facility or can you just choose one that you want?

b) Will I be able to choose the hospital or facility where I will complete my service obligation?

Participants can choose any eligible Tier 1 facility they wish to apply for employment as an RN and may apply accordingly.

a) Will we have a choice in the facility we are required to work for two years?

b) Can you work at a children's hospital if you are a NURSE Corps scholar?

Participants may choose the eligible facility to which they want to apply for employment as long as it is for a role that is consistent with the role funded; for example, if you received funding for a NP program you must find employment as a NP in a tier one eligible critical shortage facility. To fulfill your service obligation, you are required to work in an eligible tier one critical shortage facility. As long as you meet these criteria, you are meeting program's requirements.

a) What happens if a person cannot find a job or are not hired, what are their obligations to NURSE Corps? How long does a person have to find a job after graduation?

b) What if I cannot find employment within the 6 months duration period, will there be an extension period or will I be in breach of contract?

NURSE Corps participants will have up to 6 months from their date of graduation to (1) obtain a nursing license and (2) accept an offer of employment from an NURSE Corps SP-approved critical shortage facility (see boxed section on page 18). Participants will have up to 3 months following the date of the acceptance of such job offer to commence full-time (or if approved by the Secretary, part-time) clinical services at the facility. Participants may be recommended for default of their service obligation for failure to (1) accept an offer of employment from an NURSE Corps SP-approved facility within 6 months of their date of graduation or (2) commence full-time (or if approved by the Secretary, part-time) clinical

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services at the facility within 3 months following the date of the acceptance of the job offer. Participants who default on their NURSE Corps SP service obligation incur the damages described in the "Breaching the Contract" section on page 22.

Do the Tier 1 CS facilities pay market wages or is there any restrictions on the compensation?
The salary is determined by negotiations between the NCSP participant and the hiring facility. The NCSP is not involved in those discussions. The NCSP does not impose restrictions on compensation.

I am trying to download the PowerPoint however my mac is not accepting the file properly. Is there a way I can get this as a pdf?

The power point slides, recorded presentation, and questions with answers from the webinar, are posted on the website in PDF format.

I would like to know if census tract areas with high HPSA scores are eligible in some way for HPSA facilities or does the specific facility have to be listed. Thanks.

Census tract areas with HPSA scores of 14 and higher are eligible Tier 1 facilities. The specific facility does not have to be listed.

a) In reviewing and seriously considering applying for the scholarship, I have taken your advice in looking at facilities. Many of the positions available are not nursing positions they are more MD, NP? How can we judge the possibility of a location that will satisfy the requirements for the scholarship?

b) How can I find a list of hospitals near me that are considered a critical shortage facility?

Participants should consult the HPSA websites listed on page 21 of the 2013 Application and Program Guidance. You will need the address of each individual facility for which you wish to conduct a search.

I am in a BSN program now, it is a 5 year program that I started in Sept 2011 and will finish in June 2016--At that time I will be deciding which MSN program to go in to--am I correct that I would have to complete my service requirement of 2 years and then go into MSN program UNLESS it is a "bridge program". Does that mean if I am in a let's say 6 year program that will take me Directly to the MSN after June 2016 then I would Not have to go into the work requirement until I finish my masters?? Thanks!

Participants that complete their BSN degree are required to complete their service obligation immediately following graduation. However, if you are in a bridge program for MSN degree you will complete the service obligation upon graduation. Dual degree programs are not eligible.

If I get to the point of working through my service commitment, can I change jobs during the commitment within that facility or across approved facilities?

Participants must obtain prior approval from NCSP before transferring to another eligible facility. Participants are allowed to change jobs within the current facility in which they work as long as it's providing direct patient care as an RN.

I am on the <http://www.hrsa.gov/shortage/> website and searched for CSF's in NY under the Primary Medical Care discipline and I would like clarification about the following columns listed: What is "Type"? Is the "# Short" the number of health care providers short? And is Score the HPSA Score?

After conducting a HPSA search, results are presented in columns including: Type of facility, geographic area or population; the number of providers short of meeting facility, geographic or population needs;

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and HPSA score which determines the severity of need based on the shortage of health professionals in a defined facility/geographic area/ or population. Please refer to <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/> NURSE Corps SP participants are required to serve for a minimum of 2 years at a tier one critical shortage facility. Participants should refer to pages 118-21 of the 2013 NCSP's Application and Program Guidance

I am interested in pursuing a masters Nurse Midwife Program. What types of placement options are there specific to this degree? Where can I locate this information?

You may refer to the HPSA websites listed in our guidance for assistance with conducting eligible facility searches in health professional shortage areas. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact individual facilities to find out the types of positions available. Please note, while nurse-midwife programs are eligible for NCSP, they fall into our third funding preference. Historically, due to the number of qualified applicants in the first two funding preferences, we have not funded applicants in the third funding preference. The National Health Service Corps, another HRSA program, funds Nurse Mid-Wives. For more information about their program please go to: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/downloads/spapplicationguide.pdf>

I was wondering if hospitals (large organizations) are considered CSF, or are homecare facilities only CSF. For a list of eligible facility types and their definitions, please refer to pages 18-21 of the 2013 NCSP Application and Program Guidance. Critical Access, Disproportionate Share, Public and Non-Disproportionate Share Hospitals are eligible types of CSFs; however, Home Health Agencies do not fall in a tier one, which is where service obligation should be fulfilled.

Is there a list of need based hospitals that applicants may be assigned to upon graduation?

Participants should consult the HPSA websites listed on page 21 of the 2013 Application and Program Guidance. You will need the address of each individual facility for which you wish to conduct a search. The search results will inform you as to whether or not the facility meets our requirement for tier 1 placement, of having a primary care of mental health HPSA score that is > 14.

Application Process

My program is a three year traditional BSN and the application states that I must apply for the upcoming year but only allows me to input the dates for two years. Am I filling something out wrong?

NCSP will fund an applicant for up to four years. Please read all instructions on the application to ensure you are filling out the correct dates for funding. . Please contact the Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393 for further assistance.

a) Do all supporting documents (each individual) submitted in PDF format into the online application need to have our application ID number on the top?

b) On each supporting document do we put our ID number in the left hand corner or do we put our name and last 4 digit of our SS#

Application ID numbers are only required on the Essay, Resume/CV and Letters of recommendation. The remainder of the support documents will have identifying information within the content.

Positioning of the ID is not defined and will be accepted as is. **Please do NOT use any part of your SSN on any documents submitted to the NCSP.**

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I'm wondering how to fill out the GPA and upload my transcripts if I received a Bachelors (GPA 3.92) and then did my nursing pre-requisites at three different community colleges (GPA 4.0) What do I enter for my GPA? Should it be a combination of these scores? Also, am I able to upload transcripts from all of these schools, or just the one where I completed my BA?

Please use the most recent GPA for nursing pre-requisites as that relates more to the nursing program than the non-nursing degree

In my program, there is convocation for nursing students finishing in the summer. Not a graduation ceremony until the following December after the fall semester. Do I put the graduation date or the Convocation date? Technically I am done in the summer, but don't necessarily "graduate" until December 2014.

You should use the date that reflects when your program ends. When you have completed your academic studies your stipend and tuition payments will cease.

LOR/Essays

Is there anything in particular that a recommendation should include such as the individual's leadership ability, adaptability, or quality of work if it's from a clinical instructor?

LORs should provide a detailed description of the applicant's performance in school; education/work achievements; community/civic or other non-academic achievements; demonstration of cultural awareness and ability to work and communicate constructively with others from diverse backgrounds; and interest and motivation to serve underserved populations through work experience, course work, special projects and research.

a) I have been at my institution for one semester and most of my classes have been online. Is it ok if I use my academic reference as someone from my undergraduate institution?
b) I have not been in the work force for 13 years. Who could I ask to write a letter of recommendation?
c) I'm waiting for my acceptance to program RN-NP. I know I have to be already accepted before submitting my application...in the meantime I'm getting all the information ready anticipating my acceptance for your scholarship program. I graduated over 25 years ago with my ADN and have lost contact with my school advisors but remained in contact with one of my instructors who is retired now. Can I use her for a recommendation even though she is retired now? The letter would be without letter head.

It is the applicants decision and at their discretion who to request recommendations from. Please remember the intent of the LOR is to obtain a detailed description of the applicant's performance in school; education/work achievements; community/civic or other non-academic achievements; demonstration of cultural awareness and ability to work and communicate constructively with others from diverse backgrounds; and interest and motivation to serve underserved populations through work experience, course work, special projects and research.

a) I would like to get a sense of who my 'audience' is while writing my essay. Could you give some examples of the types of backgrounds the reviewers have? For instance, are they nurses, administrators, community leaders, interns, politicians, etc...?
b) Who can write a letter of academic recommendation? Can any professor write it, even if I didn't take any classes with him but he knows me?

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- c) What are some common characteristics of past awardees that you learned from their essays, resume, and recommendations?
- d) What advice or suggestions could we give the people writing our recommendations in regards to the content of their letter?
- e) As far as the Essays are concerned I wanted to clarify the maximum word count. Is it a 5000 word maximum for each essay or all three essays?

LORs/Essays provide a detailed description of the applicant's performance in school; education/work achievements; community/civic or other non-academic achievements; demonstration of cultural awareness and ability to work and communicate constructively with others from diverse backgrounds; and interest and motivation to serve underserved populations through work experience, course work, special projects and research.

The LORs/Essays are evaluated by health care professionals who may be external to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). We do not provide copies of past essays that were submitted. The maximum word count for EACH essay is limited to 5000 characters.

I am requesting my letter of recommendation from a fellowship which was team-taught by two professors. Can they co-write a recommendation letter for me or does it have to be a single recommender?

You must provide a single recommender name and email address as part of your application. Should the professors choose to collaborate on the response it would still be submitted by your identified recommender.

Would you prefer that I write the essay in one complete essay, or break it up to three different sections to address each of the three questions?

Essays must be answered and uploaded into the THREE specific sections addressing each question.

FUNDING AWARDS

How long does it take to find out that you were awarded the scholarship?

Awardees will receive notification by August 31, 2013. Those not being awarded will receive notification by September 30, 2013.

Is the NURSE Corps scholarship acceptance on a rolling basis or are all the applications only reviewed after the May 2nd deadline?

Once the application cycle has closed (May 2, 2013) all of the applications will be reviewed and FY13 applicants will know whether or not they have been awarded by September 30, 2013.

What suggestions do you have for someone who is married and will probably have a higher EFC than listed in reference to finding scholarship monies for nursing school?

You may want to consider applying to the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program which offers nursing education loan repayment in exchange for a minimum two year service commitment at a CSF located within a HPSA. NCLRP makes awards based on criteria including an applicant's salary to debt ratio, and the HPSA score of the CSF in which the applicant is employed. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/index.html>. For information about other HRSA loans and scholarships, please go to the HRSA website at www.hrsa.gov under the Loans and Scholarship tab.

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If we missed the Webinar due to the time difference (I live in the Northern Mariana Islands), is there any way we can view the topics that were discussed?

The webinar and presentation have been posted to the NCSP website for review.

I want to know the purpose of the NURSE Corps Scholarship Program.

NURSE Corps gives nurses nationwide the opportunity to turn their passion for service into a lifelong career through the NURSE Corps Scholarship Program and the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program. NURSE Corps empowers and enables nurses to follow their passion for helping and healing others. NURSE Corps members help to transform lives and build healthier communities in urban, rural and frontier areas by supporting nurses and nursing students committed to working in communities with inadequate access to care. (PER WEBPAGE) The specific purpose of the NURSE Corps Scholarship Program (NURSE Corps SP) is to provide scholarships to nursing students in exchange for a minimum 2-year full-time service commitment (or part-time equivalent), at an eligible health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses. (PER APG)

Not Categorized

a) You mentioned you anticipate funding 300 candidates during this funding cycle. How many applicants do you anticipate will apply this year? If you do not have this information, how many applicants did you receive last year?

b) How many awards does the NURSE Corps SP expect to give?

In FY12, there were 2,030 eligible applications received. We awarded 233 initial awards and 31 continuation contracts.

The NURSE Corps SP for the 2013-2014 school year is expected to be highly competitive. The program anticipates more applicants for scholarship awards than there are funds available. It is expected that approximately 300 awards will be made for the 2013-2014 school year. In the past, NURSE Corps SP funds have only allowed for funding of individuals in the first funding preference.

I have already completed most of the forms online for your grant and was wondering if I have to apply to the NHSC scholarship you mentioned. Can any of those forms be forwarded to them?

Please note the NHSC and NURSE Corps programs discussed here are scholarships, not grants and they are completely different programs. If you are applying to both programs, you will need to submit separate applications and any required forms to each program independently.

I saw that there is a scholarship for the nursing program. I don't know how to go about this. Can someone help me?

You will find the information you are requesting on the NURSE Corps website. Please refer to www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarship/NURSECORPS/.

What is the NURSE Corps Scholarship Program?

The purpose of the NURSE Corps Scholarship Program (NURSE Corps SP) is to provide scholarships to nursing students in exchange for a minimum 2-year full-time service commitment (or part-time equivalent), at an eligible health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses. Scholarships are awarded

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competitively and consist of payment for tuition, required school fees, Other Reasonable Costs (as defined on page 12) and a monthly support stipend

What is looked at for acceptance into the NURSE Corps?

The following selection factors will be considered when determining scholarship awardees:

(1) A history of not honoring a prior legal obligation. A NURSE Corps SP applicant, who has a history of not honoring a prior legal obligation, as evidenced by one or more of the following factors, may not be selected for an award:

- a. Default on any Federal payment obligations (e.g., student loans, Federal income tax liabilities, mortgages, etc.) or non-Federal payment obligations (e.g., court-ordered child support payments); OR
- b. Write off of any Federal or non-Federal debt as uncollectible.

(2) Academic performance. Demonstrates the ability to excel and maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in school.

(3) Essay questions. Demonstrates a thorough commitment to a career in nursing; interest/motivation in providing care to underserved communities; and relevant work experience and/or activities (i.e., community service, research, and internships) that have prepared the applicant to work with underserved populations.

(4) Resume/Curriculum Vitae. Summarizes educational qualifications, work experience, and volunteer/community service in chronological order

(5) Recommendation letters. Provides a detailed description of the applicant's performance in school; education/work achievements; community/civic or other non-academic achievements; demonstration of cultural awareness and ability to work and communicate constructively with others from diverse backgrounds; and interest and motivation to serve underserved populations through work experience, course work, special projects and research. (PER APG)